

April 27, 2007

Your honor. My name is Aubrey Myers. I was just recently staying with my Grandma in Virginia for a spring break visit, but now I'm once again in foster care. They say I would only be in foster care for 2 to 3 months, until everything goes through and I can move with my Grandma in Virginia. My stay in Virginia was a wonderful experience for me. There like a family I never had. They work and stick together. They are very supportive, loving, caring, kind hearted, active and (etc). I can go on forever with list, but I already know how amazing they are. When I first arrived to Virginia it took me awhile to get used of the environment and them as well. I was very shy, and quiet. But none of them never pushed me to come out of my shell I hid in. They let me slowly process through things, But I guess their

crazy personalities brings out the most in people. I slowly, but surely felt comfort there as days went by. I know that I could be myself because they would ~~never~~ never judge me. Not too long ago I just had found out my Grandpa had passed, and at that time it felt like my heart shattered. He was the only family in Iowa who I was close to, but luckily my family in Virginia could help me through my grief. As I slowly got used of my family and felt free from everything I've been through, and finally felt accepted, and no longer felt neglect, and now that's where I belonged, and wasn't ashamed to call them my family. DHG and all the other workers said I have to be back in Iowa. When I found out my eyes soaked with tears. I really didn't want to leave. It was hard to say

goodbye for now. I knew I was comin back but it tore me apart. I arrived to my foster care. I was once again back to where I started. At least thats how it felt. I wanted this to end. I was tired of being in foster care. I felt I had nothing to look forward to, and 2 to 3 months would feel like an eternity, especially when you just want to be with your family. I notice my confidence and dignity has slipped down. I'm not as active or happy, I cry myself everyday. I can never think straight in school. I constantly forget things. I just really want to go back home with my family in Virginia so if there is anyway you can speed my stay here will you please do so. I appreciate you takin time out of your day to read my letter. Thank you!
Aubrey.

Monthly CASA Advocate Update

Complete this form at the end of each month to capture pertinent information for your case assignment. Information contained in the monthly updates can be easily summarized for the next CASA Report to Court. Send a copy of this update to your CASA Coach (where applicable) or the CASA Coordinator each month.

Advocate: Miki Getz
Coach: Allie Franks
Coordinator: Jan Shelton

Case Assignment: 10/21/06
Date Accepted: 10/21/06
For month of: May 2007

Potential contacts for your case may include:

Child(ren)	Child's Therapist / Counselor	Child's Attorney/GAL
Mother(s)	Child's School or Daycare	Parents' Attorneys
Father(s)	Therapist(s) for parent(s)	Parent Partner(s)
DHS Case Manager	Substance Abuse Counselor(s)	BHIS Provider
FSRP Provider	Child's Placement	Relatives

Contacts this month (for those that apply to this case assignment)

Identify the person(s) contacted this month. Enter number of times for face, email/phone or attempts made with no return contact

Name	Relationship to the Case	Face	Phone or Email	Attempts
Aubrey Myers	Dependent child	1	4	
Jackson Myers	Dependent child	1	4	
Shiloh Myers	Dependent child	2		
Amanda Myers	Mother	1	3	1
Chris Lite	Aubrey's therapist	1		
Lori O.	Aubrey/Amanda's therapist		1	
Kim James	Jackson's Counselor	1		
Emma Jones	Shiloh's Foster Mother	2		
John Rugby	Children's Attorney		1	
Crissy Jacobs	DHS Case Manager	1	1	
Cindy Malcolm	FSRP Provider	1		
Mrs. Bleil	Shiloh's teacher	1		

Meetings or court hearings I attended this month (enter date):

Family team meeting:	<u>NA</u>	Foster Care Review:	<u>NA</u>
Other staffing, identify:	<u></u>	Court hearing, identify:	<u>6/25/07</u>
		Permanency Hearing	

Provide a brief case update as it relates to the case and include pertinent information that you may include in your next CASA Report to Court. Consider observations or information gathered as it relates to Child Well-Being (mental health, behaviors, academics, placement); Parental Capabilities; Family Safety; Family Interactions and Parental Home Environment.

Aubrey Myers: Aubrey describes considerable preoccupation with concerns of her family, her past, their present separation, and what the future holds for each of them. She told me that this "stress" accounted for her poor grades: mostly Ds; one C and one F. She admitted that greater effort and

requesting help would make a difference; however, she expressed that history and civics held no interest for her whatsoever.

Our time together is always enjoyable. She is cheerful, playful, serious, and insightful and displays an increasingly greater sense of maturity and understanding. I challenge her regarding many issues and she remains respectful and constructive. She verbalizes commitment to her program and believes that if *she* tries hard enough, she will be able to go home to her mother given that mom remains employed.

Aubrey talked about her spring break visit to see her Grandmother in Virginia. From Aubrey's perspective this visit went very well and she immediately connected with her family there. She wrote a letter to the Judge expressing her desire to be out of foster care and placed with her Grandmother.

Jackson Myers: During my visit with Jackson on 5/5/07, he proudly reported that he was at Level II-2. Kim James reported that he is doing well; however, he continues to experience bad days. Jackson enjoys sharing pictures and video clips between his siblings and longingly speaks of being together again. Prior to my May visit to the Residential Treatment Center, I received emails from Jackson's counselor, Kim James, indicating that Jackson's behavior was greatly oppositional or that noticeable gains had taken place. Such variability did not seem to correlate with any obvious factors; however, she felt that deteriorating behavior including disrespectful and confrontational verbal behaviors toward staff and peers was often related to phone calls with his mother.

Shiloh Myers: Shiloh has never made any negative remarks regarding her foster home and appears happy. She repeatedly expresses her desire to "go home to Mom and Poppie", her grandfather who lives with Amanda. She misses her siblings and cries as phone calls draw to a close.

Shiloh has visits with her mother twice a week, supervised by Cindy Malcolm from Kidz Connection. The visits reportedly go well; Shiloh and mom cook together, do art activities or go to movies. Ms. Malcolm provides assistance with Shiloh "as needed" when Mrs. Jones has concerns.

Shiloh's teacher, Mrs. Bleil, reports that Shiloh's behavior fluctuates. She describes "spurts" of non-compliance and "attitude". She is fully capable academically; however, she does not work to her full potential.

Emma Jones reports problems with Shiloh stealing candy and gum at the foster home despite being reminded that "this is wrong". Shiloh exhibits aggression and moodiness if visits with her mother are cancelled. Medications to treat bedwetting have not been effective. Her greatest concern at this time is Shiloh's nightmares. She often experiences fitful sleep, flailing about, talking, and crying.

Amanda Myers: On 5/1/07, I reached her and told her that both staffs were eager to make this work. Her initial response was great annoyance and she stated, "I don't have time for this. It's not going to happen." After some brief persuasion and clarification, she returned my call within five minutes of hanging up, reporting that arrangements had been made with both centers.

Cindy Malcolm, the worker who supervises weekly visits between Amanda and Shiloh, reports that mother is consistently at home when a visit is scheduled. Since the 5/21/07 visit, Amanda has consistently followed through with reports of calls and communication with the treatment centers.

Amanda began working at Bybo Call Center the first week of May and works 40 hours a week.

Amanda has been receiving individual counseling at Wabashaw Mental Health since April. Her therapist, D. Whitell, reports that Amanda has attended each session except for one in which she

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Advocate: Miki Getz
Coach: Allie Franks
Coordinator: Jan Shelton

Case Assignment: 10/12/06
Date Accepted: 10/12/06
For month of: June 2007

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Mother(s)	Child's School or Daycare	Parents' Attorneys
Father(s)	Therapist(s) for parent(s)	Parent Partner(s)
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Aubrey Myers: During our visit on 6/7/07, she expanded upon her ideas since our last visit and was proud of the finished songs. She shared poems about topics including anger, love, and violence that

described situations she had experienced (being separated from her family) and situations she had observed in others (women who love men who treat them badly).

Aubrey remains in placement at the F Residential Treatment Program. She also continues to struggle with her behaviors. While she continues to have visitations with their mother, staff reports that Aubrey and her mother belittle each other during these visits.

In speaking with Mr. Lite over the phone, he indicated there were many factors accounted for delays in holding the first phone session between Aubrey and Amanda on 6/6/07. He assured me that *none* of these reasons were Amanda's fault. The delay, lack of follow through, and misunderstandings greatly frustrated Amanda. He reported continued progress in Aubrey and that she has developed a greater understanding of the effects of her behavior on others. She expresses gratitude and apologizes when she makes mistakes. She is currently at Level II (as of 6/12/07) and will hopefully complete requirements for Level III within a couple weeks.

On 6/12/07, I spoke with Lori O., the counselor who will be conducting phone sessions with Aubrey and Amanda. She told me that Amanda had wished not to set up a fixed time on Mondays due to her "other appointments" and that she would initiate the call to F Residential. Ms. O. was willing to email dates of sessions that take place and how they progress.

Jackson Myers: Jackson continues in his placement at the Residential Treatment. He continues to struggle in managing his anger and remains physically assaultive toward staff. He continues to take his medication and attends therapy.

In speaking to Kim James this month, she noted that during the first phone session with Jackson, mom and staff, Amanda was described as being supportive and had encouraged him to do his best. The second arranged call did not take place as planned, due to a schedule conflict at Residential that his counselor forgot.

Shiloh Myers: Shiloh began attending Girls, Inc. the first week of June. She talks about the activities that the program provides. She also likes playing with the girls she knows from church. She finished off the school year on a good note and will be advancing to second grade next year. She is meeting milestones and is developmentally on target for her age.

In speaking to Emma Jones, she talked more about Shiloh's nightmares. She noted that it normally requires much effort to wake Shiloh during these episodes and she is not aware of having had any dreams. Although these episodes have occurred off and on since she first came to live with Mrs. Jones, they have never been as prevalent as they have become over the past couple months.

Amanda Myers: As of 6/12/07, she continues to be employed full time. She reports that she greatly enjoys her job, "and even if I didn't, I'd keep it for my kids".

The number of bi-weekly phone conferences that have taken place include two with Residential and two with F Residential (as of 6/12/07). This reflects a 7-week interval since the previous court date. Amanda has taken the role of initiator consistently and has experienced waiting ten minutes for a call that the center had agreed to make, finally placing the call herself and holding while Jackson was located and brought to the phone. One arranged call was overlooked because he went on a field trip.

Additional information:

I contacted Crissy Jacobs and John Rugby regarding their recommendations for the upcoming permanency hearing in June. At this time, they both indicate a recommendation for an extension of

I continue to have no information or contact with the putative fathers in this case. They have not followed through with paternity testing or been involved in services or interactions.

A meeting is scheduled in July, 2007.

In-service Training (identify training completed and include time spent to the nearest ¼ hour)

Identify additional training that would be beneficial:

9